

any way cap executive salaries nor does it diminish the board's legal authority. It simply provides shareholders with a mechanism to voice their support or opposition to an executive compensation package.

This legislation is supported by the International Corporate Governance Network, the Council of Institutional Investors, labor unions, and shareholder organizations. Further, this approach to corporate governance is not new, and it has been shown that it works. The non-binding advisory vote has been successfully implemented in the United Kingdom and more recently in Australia. It was also adopted voluntarily by the insurance company, Aflac, and 52 other companies have similar proposals pending.

Mr. Chairman, American families cannot afford to continue subsidizing excessive CEO compensation packages. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1257.

**TRIBUTE TO LAUREL HIGHLANDS
HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADERS IN
HONOR OF THEIR MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the young women of Laurel Highlands High School Cheerleading Squad and their coach Liz Dunham. The young ladies of this squad have accomplished so much not just over the squad school year but over the proceeding years. These accomplished young women have done more for the community of Uniontown, Pennsylvania than they may realize.

While not only cheering at 98 games over the past year, the cheerleaders of Laurel Highlands have accomplished so much more. These young ladies have participated and volunteered their time in numerous community activities. They have raised funds and awareness for organizations and charities that include the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and the Bosom Buddies. The cheerleaders of Laurel Highlands High School have also collected for food banks and helped with the benefit dance for Interfaith Caregivers of Fayette, Inc.

Along with their community involvement, the cheerleaders of Laurel Highlands High School have participated and won many titles and the respect of many within the sport. Including, back to back Bituminous Coal Show "Varsity Over All High Point" titles, along with JV winning their division, and the 2007 WPXI "Cheer of the Year" Contest. The involvement and dedication of these young women could end today and I still would not have enough time to stress the accomplishments of this squad both past and present.

I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in commending the athletes of the Laurel Highlands High School Cheerleading Squad in Uniontown, Pennsylvania. Their presence has been felt not only throughout the school but throughout the community as well. Best wishes to all of these young ladies in their future endeavors and may the memories this illustrious year last them a lifetime.

COMMENDING KRISTOFER K.
BJERGA

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Kristofer K. Bjerga for being selected as a 2007 National Merit Scholarship Awards winner. Kristofer is a student at Keller High School in Keller, Texas.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition held annually. Students are initially evaluated by their performance on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Of the approximately 1.4 million entrants, only about 8,200 students are selected as finalists.

In this first announcement of 2007 winners, about 1,000 high school seniors are awarded scholarships from various companies, foundations, and businesses. These organizations fund the scholarships to help some of our nation's most capable students reach their potential.

I wish to offer my congratulations to Kristofer. I would also like to recognize his parents and the faculty of Keller High School for their outstanding commitment to Kristofer's education. I wish him even greater success as he continues his education, and I am proud to represent him in the 26th District of Texas.

**CONGRATULATING MONROEVILLE,
ALABAMA NATIVE CYNTHIA
TUCKER FOR WINNING THE PULITZER PRIZE**

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with both pride and pleasure that I rise this week to honor Cynthia Tucker, a beloved native of Monroeville, Alabama, for receiving the highest honor in American journalism, the Pulitzer Prize.

Raised in Monroeville, where her father was a school principal, Cynthia went to Auburn University, graduating in 1976 with a degree in journalism. She joined the Atlanta Journal-Constitution staff in 1976 and also worked a short while at The Philadelphia Inquirer. As a reporter, she covered local government, national politics, crime and education, in addition to filing dispatches from Africa, Central America, and Cuba.

Over 30 years have passed since Cynthia first joined the Journal-Constitution. She has risen to editorial page editor, and her syndicated column now appears in more than 70 newspapers throughout the United States.

The third time proved to be the charm for Cynthia, who was also a Pulitzer finalist in 2004 and 2006. This year the journalism department at the University of Alabama, my alma mater, also recognized her long, distinguished writing career by awarding her the 2007 Clarence Cason Writing Award. Last year, Cynthia was named the National Association of Black Journalists' Journalist of the Year. In 2000, the American Society of Newspaper Editors honored her with the Distinguished

Writing Award for commentary, and she has won the Cox Newspaper award for column writing four times.

Nelle Harper Lee, Truman Capote, and Mark Childress firmly established Monroeville as the "Literary Capital of Alabama." Cynthia Tucker's name is now very much a part of this prestigious list.

Madam Speaker, Cynthia Tucker has been an inspiration to countless young women—and men—from Alabama and across the country for her distinguished career. I know her colleagues, her family, and her many friends join with me in praising her significant accomplishments and a job well done.

**TRIBUTE TO THE LATE KENNETH
MICHAEL KAYS**

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Kenneth Michael Kays. Mr. Kays, a native of Fairfield, Illinois was a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor. A monument in his memory is being dedicated on May 5, 2007 in Fairfield, Illinois.

Mr. Kays, a Private First Class in the United States Army, was cited for his heroic action in Thua Thien province, Republic of Vietnam, on May 7, 1970. His rank at that time was Private and he was serving as a medical airman with Company D, 1st Battalion, 101st Airborne Division near the Fire Support Base Maureen.

When enemy forces assaulted Company D's night defensive position, Private Kays began assisting his fallen and injured comrades. In assisting his fellow soldiers, he became a target and enemy fire and explosive charges severed the lower portion of his left leg. Private Kays applied a tourniquet to his leg and continued to search the perimeter and help his fellow soldiers who were injured. Private Kays did not allow himself to be treated until his fellow soldiers had been treated for their own wounds. He was cited with the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroism.

My thoughts and prayers will be with the family and friends of Private First Class Kays as the monument is dedicated in his honor. May God bless his memory and may He continue to bless America.

COMMENDING GABRIEL J. DIAZ

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Gabriel J. Diaz for being selected as a 2007 National Merit Scholarship Awards winner. Gabriel is a student at Ryan High School in Denton, TX.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition held annually. Students are initially evaluated by their performance on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Of the approximately 1.4 million entrants, only about 8,200 students are selected as finalists.

In this first announcement of 2007 winners, about 1,000 high school seniors are awarded